of Girls for Elementary Level (NPEGEL). The Mid-day-Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce dropout rates.

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been launched to universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme envisages enhancing enrolment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation by improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, and through removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers. The programme has special focus on girls and envisages several girl-specific measures including focus on increasing number of women teachers in schools and provision of separate toilet for girls.

The Girls' Hostel scheme envisages setting up of one 100-bedded girls' hostel in each educationally backward block to cater to girls of secondary and higher secondary schools.

Funds required for the implementation of Yashpal Committee report

†2695. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prof. Yashpal Committee has recommended to develop IITs and IIMs as Universities;

(b) the amount required for expenditure in the year 2009-10 by his Ministry and Planning Commission to implement these recommendations; and

(c) the arrangements made for better and quality education at primary level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. One of the recommendations of Prof. Yashpal Committee calls for Institutions of Excellence like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) to be encouraged to diversify and expand their scope to work as full-fledged universities, while keeping intact their unique features, which will act as a pace-setting and a model governance systems for all universities.

(b) Prof. Yashpal Committee Report has been submitted to the Government recently on 24.06.2009. It is pre-mature to reckon the expenditure for 2009-10 required to implement the recommendations of the Committee, at this stage.

(c) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education. This includes recruitment of 9.86 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days every year, free distribution of textbooks to all children for primary and upper primary classes, academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6472 Block Resource Centres and 69268 Cluster Resource Centres and regular evaluation of students.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.